

ATA News

Winter 2017



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John Munster
receiving the ATA
lifetime award, 2012

In Memoriam

The ATA lost three prominent members in the fall of 2017. ATA President Ed Russo wanted to honor them in this special issue.

John H. Munster

Submitted by Ann Dinkel, retired Alternative Design

The industry lost a mentor, colleague and friend when John H. Munster died on October 25, 2017. Everyone who knew him recognized his laugh. John did not start his working life in the industry; instead, he worked as an undertaker and then as a fingerprint analyst for the FBI. He was very proud to say he worked under J. Edgar Hoover.

John was employed at Litton Bionetics in the 1960s working with primates. According to one long-time friend and coworker at the time, "by 1968 John was accomplished in the husbandry of non-human primates. He was overseeing part of the breeding colony, quarantine and conditioning of raw imports, assigning treatments to sick monkeys and doing minor surgery. John was one of the ring leaders who made it fun to work at Litton. He wasn't far from the center of most practical jokes but at the same time was serious about the welfare of his monkeys."

From 1970-72, he worked at Magee Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh. In the words of his manager at the time, "we stole him away to beef up our primate program".

John did a stint at Fort Detrick as a facility manager. His next project was housing monkeys at Monmouth airport for what was then Hazleton before going south to establish the Alice, Texas primate facility. Whenever a monkey would get loose and people would report it, John would tell the authorities all of his were accounted for and it had to have come from the Great Adventure Safari park in Jackson Township.

He eventually moved to the sales side of the industry, first as

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In Memoriam

an independent rep, and then for Hazelton/Covance, Ancare and Thoren. He retired in 2013.

John was a founding member of several AALAS branches and a fixture at many local meetings. He served as Joint Symposium Chair, and often participated in DVB Technician Day, providing instruction in primate handling and techniques.

He was a founding member of Allied Trade Association and a past president. In 2007 he was presented with the Floyd Poling Award, and in 2012 received the Robert O. Boyington Lifetime Achievement Award.

John is survived by his wife, Katherine, a brother, Andrew, three children Jeffrey, Dennine and Christina, eight grandchildren, and his beloved Standard Poodle, Lily. He touched many lives and left many good friends.

Katherine requested that memorial contributions in John's honor be made to UNICEF for Puerto Rico, as John had a love for the Caribbean islands and their people.



Bill Edstrom Sr.

Submitted by Mealy Funeral Home

William Edward Edstrom passed away Friday, November 24, 2017 at the age of 87. "Bill" was born in the small mining town of Galena, Kansas on June 12, 1930, at the start of The Great Depression. He was the first child born to Arthur and Dora (nee Hatcher)

Edstrom, the eldest of three brothers – Bill, Homer Elsworth and Evertt Ray Edstrom.

Bill's parents separated when he was still quite young. He and his brothers lived with their father until their father's death in 1942 which resulted in the young boys being split into different homes. Bill moved in with his aunt "Doodle" - Lula (nee Hatcher) and uncle Gene Moffet in Joplin, MO. Bill trapped rabbits, plowed fields behind a horse, picked tomatoes for a local farmer and did chores both before and after school. He attended school in a one-room schoolhouse through 8th grade.

Bill sometimes talked about how his family was "on relief"

In Memoriam

during the Depression and how this set him apart from the other, more affluent children. These experiences awakened in Bill a determination to succeed, to make his own way, and instilled in him a lifelong commitment to hard work and innovation.

After graduating from Joplin High School in the class of 1948, he served four years in the US Navy, three and a half of those at sea on the destroyer "Tucker" during the Korean War.

Following his tour of wartime duty, Bill returned to Joplin, MO where he met his future wife - Sylvia Sue Bruff. Bill subsequently moved to Milwaukee, WI to study at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) on the GI Bill. Sylvia and her family soon followed. Bill and Sylvia were married on March 26, 1954.

Bill initially studied refrigeration technology at MSOE but, finding himself to be a successful student, he pushed himself further and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1957. He subsequently worked for Caterpillar Tractors in Peoria, Illinois before moving back to Wisconsin to work eleven years for AC Spark Plug - a division of GM.

During his time at AC Spark Plug, he and Sylvia started the **Edstrom Chinchilla Ranch**. He studied to be a chinchilla judge to understand what judges were looking for in excellent chinchillas. The resulting Edstrom chinchillas went on to win hundreds of awards and were sold as breeding stock to ranchers all over the country. Bill served a term as president of the Empress Chinchilla Association in the U.S.

As the Edstrom "herd" of chinchillas grew from a few cages in the basement of his home to hundreds of cages in the barn, Bill turned his engineering training toward the difficulties of maintaining such a large herd. This resulted in his invention of an automated watering valve and delivery system that replaced the need for glass drinking water bottles for the animals. He successfully filed for a patent and subsequently formed **Edstrom Industries, Inc.** in 1969.

During these early years, Bill and Sylvia had four children -- Cynthia (Cindy), William (Bill) Jr, Arthur, and Eric. Even with Eric still on the way, Bill quit his job with AC Spark Plug to dedicate himself full time to this new business.

Edstrom Industries grew from the kitchen table (where family members would inspect parts) to the garage, the corn crib, the outside shed, and the barn, to finally requiring the construction of a small metal building in a new industrial park two miles from his home. As business continued to grow, Bill furthered his education and earned an MBA from the University Wisconsin - Milwaukee. He later graduated from Harvard Business School's Owner/President Management executive education program. The current 114,000 sq. ft. Edstrom Industries office and factory are across the street from the original small building in the same industrial park and in the same small town of Waterford, WI. Today, Edstrom Industries is the largest employer in Waterford. His inventions have enabled and streamlined lifesaving research in medical, pharmaceutical, and educational institutions all over the world and have created jobs and quality products for decades.

Following retirement from Edstrom Industries, Bill and Sylvia moved to Northern Wisconsin near Presque Isle. Bill and Sylvia discovered a new interest in collecting and restoring 1931 Ford Model A cars. Bill would later say some of his favorite times of his life were those he spent with Sylvia - the two of them exploring the back roads of northern Wisconsin in one or another of their restored Model A cars.

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Bill exemplified and valued education as a path to personal betterment and that showed in his expressions of philanthropy to Alverno College, MSOE University, St. Rose Center, and Rawhide Boys Ranch.

Bill is survived by his four children: daughter Cynthia Sue Edstrom with husband Steve Moore, of Kalispell, MT; son William Edward Edstrom Jr. with wife Mari (nee Kumakura) Edstrom, of Milwaukee, WI; son, Arthur Vance Edstrom with fiancée Kathleen Blackwell of Austin, Texas; son Eric Kent Edstrom with wife JJ Frederickson, of Burlington, WI. Bill is grandfather to Andrew, Toma, Kento and Ella Edstrom, and Gerick and Ashton Moore, and has step grandchildren Brianna and Austin Blackwell. He is also survived by cousins Carolyn (nee Moffet) Clayton and Gene Moffet, nephews Charles and Paul Edstrom, great nephew Alec Edstrom, nieces Sylvia (nee Edstrom) Salmon and Katherine Edstrom as well as his beagle, Little Fella.

Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife of nearly 60 years, Sylvia Sue (nee Bruff) Edstrom; his parents Arthur and Dora (nee Hatcher) Edstrom; his brothers Homer and Everett Ray Edstrom; and his Aunt Lula (nee Hatcher) Moffet and Uncle Gene Moffet.

In lieu of floral expressions of sympathy, memorial donations are suggested be made to Lad Lake/St. Rose, a favorite charity of Bill's. Checks can be made out to: "Lad Lake/St. Rose"

In Memoriam

Christian Vernon



The family posted this obituary in the *New Jersey Star Ledger*:

Christian Michael Vernon, 62, of Mendham, NJ, died November 26, 2017 at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Born in Orange, NJ on December 11, 1954, he was the son of Helen and Roger Vernon. He taught tennis for some time, then served as a salesman for various companies. He always made us laugh and feel graced by his intelligence, warmth, and tenderness, none of which we enjoyed anywhere near long enough. He left behind a host of beautiful memories that will never fade. He leaves behind his twin sister Claudia Sabine, a brother Sean, a younger sister Tracy, a niece and nephew Kerry Torrico and Colin Sabine,

and a grandniece Sydney and grandnephew London. A memorial service is planned for the spring.

Chris was the national Sales Manager for Lenderking Caging. Chris entered laboratory animal science as a sales representative with Shepherd Papers. He moved from there to Quip Laboratories, and recently became the Sales Manager for Lenderking Caging.

He was a lifetime resident of New Jersey and had been active in the ATA for many years.

34th Annual Meeting



Laboratory Animal Management Association

(in cooperation with Allied Trades Association)

34th Annual Meeting – April 17-19, 2018

[Annual Meeting Registration \(Online Form\)](#)

[Annual Meeting Registration \(Printer-Friendly Form\)](#)

[Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront](#)

3001 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

(757) 213-3000

[Click Here for Online Reservations](#)

Group Name/Code: Laboratory Animal Management Association / LAM

Check-in/Check-out: 15-APR-2018 / 21-APR-2018

2018 LAMA/ATA 34th Annual Meeting

April 17-19, 2018

**Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront
Virginia Beach, VA**

ATA Membership Form



Supporting the AALAS Community Since 1955

Allied Trade Association for Laboratory Animal Science 2015 Membership Application

If you prefer, you may attach your business card here.

Company: _____
Contact: _____
(Person who should receive Exhibitor Information Package)

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email: _____

Please indicate two additional persons who should receive all ATA mailings and notices:

①

Name: _____
Mailing Address
(if different from above): _____

Email: _____

②

Name: _____
Mailing Address
(if different from above): _____

Email: _____

Additional contact e-mail addresses for electronic versions of our newsletter and other correspondence:

①	Name: _____	Email: _____
②	Name: _____	Email: _____
③	Name: _____	Email: _____
④	Name: _____	Email: _____